

PERSPECTIVES

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Upcoming Meetings:

March 24:
Design Review Committee, 4:00 p.m.

March 27:
City Planning Commission, 1:00 p.m.
Public Hearing, 2:30

April 7:
Design Review Committee, 4:00 p.m.

April 9:
Wetlands Board 2:00 p.m.

April 10:
City Planning Commission, 12:00 p.
m.

April 16:
Bd. of Bldg. Code Appeals, 10:00 a.
m.

April 17:
Board of Zoning Appeals, 10:00 a.m.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION ACT UPDATE



The Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAB), the State's regulatory body consisting of nine Tidewater Virginia residents appointed by the Governor, passed newly revised Virginia Chesapeake Bay Act Regulations in December 2001. The new regulations included the expansion of a previously applied 50-foot buffer to

100 feet for all new development on parcels recorded after 2002. In December 2001, CBLAB established a March 1, 2003 deadline for localities to implement this buffer through their local ordinances. CBLAB held a special meeting on February 18, 2003 to consider delaying the deadline for local governments to adopt amendments to their local Bay Act ordinances. Mr. Tayloe Murphy, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, spoke at length about the need for the deadline extension citing concerned calls from a variety of different stakeholder groups, including the homebuilders and the conservation community, who expressed concern over the interpretation of evolving guidance documents for the revised regulations. The Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution extending the deadline for localities' compliance with the revised regulations to December 31, 2003.

In anticipation of this deadline, the Department of Planning and Community Development's Bureau of Environmental Services regularly meets with city attorneys and zoning staff to assess the impact of the extended buffer on the City's redevelopment plans. Much of the City's development occurred prior to the adoption of environmental regulations. It is a well-known fact that the City is considered 98 percent developed, with 55 percent of the land impervious resulting in very limited natural infiltration of water into the soil. Currently, staff is conducting an assessment of the costs and benefits associated with the implementation of this regulatory change. Staff expects to brief City Council on this assessment in the summer of 2003.

On a related topic, Norfolk City Council on March 11, 2003 unanimously voted to approve an amendment to the General Plan of Norfolk that provides additional water quality improvement strategies to the General Plan in compliance with the state-mandated comprehensive planning requirements of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. The amendment addresses the City's protection of potable water supply, shoreline erosion, shoreline access and water quality improvements through redevelopment, in addition to depicting the 100-year floodplain, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas, critically eroding areas, potential threats to water quality, marinas, and potential shoreline access.

Barbara McCallum - Senior Environmental Planner





WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.norfolk.gov/planning/

Highlights of our web page include:

- ◆ Meeting schedules & agendas for boards & commissions
- ◆ Staff reports & maps for Planning Commission public hearing items
- ◆ General department information and contacts
- ◆ Links to the Zoning Ordinance
- ◆ Demographic & Land Use information
- ◆ Answers to frequently asked questions (such as how to rezone a property)

We are constantly updating our web page - please come back often.

Department News

Evette Basnight



Evette comes to the City of Norfolk with over 15 years of administrative/secretarial experience. Her most recent position was with Strickland & Jones, PC as secretary to CEO. Prior to that, she worked at USAA for 11 years in Human Resources and Employee Education. Evette will take on the duties of the new support technician who serves as support to the administrative assistant in our Building Construction Services Division.

Roy Roberts



Roy is a Hampton Roads resident since 1969 and comes to us with 17 years of field experience. Roy or James (as he prefers to be called) is a Certified Safety Professional, and he is currently attending Old Dominion University working towards a degree in Environmental Health.

Richard Veditz



Richard was previously employed by Isle of Wight County as a Plans Examiner. He joins our staff as a Permit Specialist. Richard brings with him six years of inspections and plan review experience.

Promotions

Staff would like to congratulate the following employees on their most recent promotions:
Bernard Boomer - Structural Team Leader
Jeffrey White - Electrical Team Leader
Steve Sheppard - Sign Inspector

Commendation



Sr. Codes Specialist Robert E. Pittenger, Sr. is to be commended for his development of a portable test stand that will be utilized for the Cross Connection Certification Program. Bob serves as the instructor for certification of general and limited testers that install, test, and maintain backflow protection devices that safeguard the City's potable water system. Prior to his development of this stand, students were instructed and given a written exam at one location and then had to transfer to another location to complete the "hands on" practical session of the certification.

Deborah Mapp CPS - Administrative Secretary